



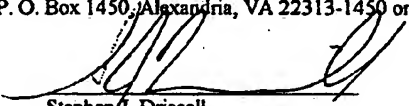
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Hengelmolen et al.**
Application No.: **10/055,611** Examiner: **Nguyen, C. N.**
Filed: **October 29, 2001** Art Unit: **2831**
For: **Ferrule**
Attorney Docket No. **17648-A**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence, along with any other papers indicated as being enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Services, as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Extension, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 26, 2004.


Stephen J. Driscoll

Commissioner For Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED DECEMBER 26, 2003

05/26/2004 KJONE37 00000005 195425 10085610

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This reply is being filed in response to the Office Action dated December 26, 2003. Applicants also petition for a one month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to April 26, 2004. The commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account no. 19-5425 for fees in connection with this petition and application in general.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 4.

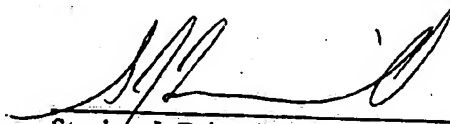
Remarks begin on page 7.

VI. CONCLUSION

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is urged that the present application be allowed. An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted

Dated: April 26, 2004



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